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# Iran-Iraq: The Arabestan Option

An Intelligence Memorandum

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**Summary**

Support for the idea of Arabestan—an independent Arab entity carved out of Iranian territory—has been a consistent theme in Iraq's policy toward the Khomeini regime. Arabestan would comprise the Arab-populated areas of Khuzestan Province and the Iranian Persian Gulf coast, possibly as far as Bushehr. An entity controlling most of this area would be rich in agricultural and mineral resources. [REDACTED]

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Encouraging the creation of Arabestan is one of Baghdad's options in continuing its pressure on Iran. Significant support for the Iraqi invasion has not developed among the Arab population of Khuzestan, but Iranian Arabs would probably accept an Iraqi-backed local Arab government if they felt secure from Iranian retaliation. [REDACTED]

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*This paper was [REDACTED] Southwest Asia Analytic Center, Near East-South Asia Division, Office of Political Analysis. It was coordinated with the Offices of Economic Research, Strategic Research and Geographic and Societal Research, and the National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia. Questions and comments are welcome and should be directed to Chief, SAAC, NESA, OPA,*

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